ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

PEA RIVER

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

NEW EBENEZER CHURCH,

COFFEE COUNTY, ALABAMA.

ON THE

5TH, 6TH AND 7TH DAYS OF NOVEMBER 1881.

OFFICERS:

M. BROOKS, ... MODERATOR.
A. J. WISE, JR ..... CLERK.
A. WINDHAM, ... TREASURER.

Southern Star Print, Ozark, Alabama.

1881.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Hear Letters from the Churches read.
2. Elect Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer.
3. Invite Ministering brethren to seats.
4. Call for Petitions from Churches desiring to unite.
5. Appoint Committees to report during the session.
   - To arrange preaching.
   - On Missions.
   - On Finance.
   - On Documents.
   - On Nominations.
6. Call for Correspondence.
7. Return Correspondence.
8. Have Rules of Decorum read.
9. Call roll and mark absentees.
10. Hear Treasurer's Report.
11. Hear Miscellaneous Resolutions.
12. Hear Reports from Committees.
13. Make arrangements for printing minutes.
14. Correct minutes and adjourn.

MINUTES.

The Pea River Baptist Association met pursuant to adjournment, with New Ebenezer Church, Coffee county, Ala. in its 5th annual session, on the 5th day of November 1881.

The Introductory sermon was preached by Elder M. Brooks at 11 o'clock a. m. from the 13th chapter, and 1st verse of John.

After one hour for refreshment, the body was called to order by Elder M. Brooks, the Moderator. Prayer by Elder E. M. Brooks.

By request, the letters from the several churches were read by Jesse M. Rowe and J. W. Brooks, and delegates names enrolled as follows:

Woodland Grove:—J. M. Rowe, M. Brunson, W. M. Cooper with Eugene Brunson alternate.

Bethlehem, Coffee County:—A. J. Brooks, Z. Blackman and T. D. Kendrick.

Shiloh:—A. J. Wise, Jr. and J. R. Spurlin.

Bethlehem, Dale County:—W. J. Ellis, J. M. Bullard, J. M. Tally, with S. D. Adams alternate.

New Providence:—A. Windham, P. T. Wise and A. Moore.

New Ebenezer:—N. B. Fleming, J. M. Rhodes and A. J. Mullins.

Hebron:—Not represented.

Then proceeded to election of officers, which resulted in the choice of Elder M. Brooks, Moderator, A. J. Wise, Jr. Clerk, and A. Windham Treasurer.

Invited visiting ministers and brethren to seats in the body.

Called for Petitionary letters. None received.

COMMITTEES APPOINTED TO REPORT DURING SESSION.

On Divine Service:—A. Windham, J. R. Spurlin, M. Brunson, together with the delegates from New Ebenezer Church.

On Missions :—A. J. Wise, Jr., Jesse M. Rowe and A. Windham.

On Finance :—A. J. Brooks, A. Windham and Eugene Brunson.

On Documents : —T. D. Kendrick, N. B. Fleming and W. J. Ellis.

On Nominations :—W. J. Spurlin, P. T. Wise and A. Moore.

Called for correspondence, when Elder E. M. Brooks responded from the Salem Association.

The committee on preaching reports as follows: Saturday 2 o'clock p. m. Elder J. W. Bullard. On Sabbath 11 o'clock a. m. Elder J. M. Rowe, at 2 o'clock p. m. Elder W. J. McBryde. On motion, adjourned until Monday morning 9 o'clock.

SABBATH.

On Sabbath, the ministers preached to large and attentive congregations.

MONDAY MORNING, Nov. 7th, 1881.

The Association met according to previous adjournment. Singing and prayer by Elder W. J. McBryde.

Renewed the call for correspondence, when W. J. McBryde responded from Salem Association.

Also renewed the call for petitionary letters. No response.

RETURNED CORRESPONDENCE.

To Salem Aseociation :— Elders Jesse M. Rowe, M. Brooks, and A. J. Wise, Jr.

To Zion Association :———— ———

To Newton Association :—J. M. Rowe, A. J. Brooks and A. J. Wise Jr.

To Sandy Creek Association :———— ————

Read the decorum. Called roll and marked absentees.

On motion, the committee on Finance owing to abscence was filled by the Moderator, in adding brothers B. T. Wise and M. Brunson.

The report on Missions read and after a careful debate, was on motion adopted. See appendix A.

And on motion, the Moderator was instructed to appoint a committee to exert their utmost endeavors to raise a fund by subscription by cash in order to co-operate with the destitute churches in employing ministers, when the following brothers were appointed. J. M. Rowe, A. J. Wise Jr., M. A. Helms, M. Brunson and W. J. Spurlin.

Likewise a motion was made to raise as much as possible in cash and pledges in the present session of the Association.

On motion, the above committee was made the Execuive committee.

On motion, the church of Bethlehem (Coffee county) was released from her pledge of 1880, by the payment of $2.00 which was duly paid by A. J. Brooks and T. D. Kendrick.

On motion, adjourned one hour, reassembled and upon motion, brother M. Brunson was elected Treasurer Pro. Tem. during the present session, as the Treasurer was absent.

Report on Documents:—Read and adopted. See appendix B.

Report of Executive committee:—Read and adopted. See appendix C.

Report on Nominations:—Read and adopted. See appendix D.

Report on Finance:—Read and adopted. See appendix E.

Report of Treasurer:—Read and adopted. See appendix F.

MISCELLANEOUS RESOLUTIONS

when Jesse M. Rowe offered the following:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association are due and are hereby tendered to the members of New Ebenezer Church, together with the very kind and hospitable citizens in the surrounding vicinity, for their kindness shown us during our pleasant stay among them.

On motion, the Clerk was instructed to have 150 copies of minutes printed, and the Association agreed to pay the Clerk a stated salary of $5.00 for his services, and was authorized to draw upon the Treasurer for money to print minutes, and also for his services. Minutes read and adopted.

The Association then adjourned to meet with Woodland Grove Church, 8 miles northeast of Elba, in Coffee county, on Saturday before the first Sabbath in November 1882.

M. BROOKS, Moderator.

A. J. WISE, JR. *Clerk.*

APPENDIX A.

We your committee on Missions offer the following report. So long as every christian acknowledges Christ as his Master; so long he shares the riches of grace, and sympathies of the Spirit, his bounden duty is to obey that command; "Go preach the gospel to every creature."

If we can't all preach, we can all give to send a preacher. Brethren does the cause of Christ demand anything of us? Please read Genesis 14th chapter and 20th verse. Lev. 27th chapter, 30th verse. Num. 18th chapter, 21st verse, here God gives directions how to use the amount due him. In Malichi, God charges the Jews with robbery, for withholding their dues.

And again in the New Testament, Matthew 23rd chapter 25th verse, and Luke 11th chapter 42nd verse, we clearly see Christ insisting upon the payment of his tithes. Brethren is one tenth of our income all that we owe the blessed Master's cause? And yet we are not slow in asking him to continue his blessings toward us. And while we profess to be his followers—we can do but two things for the heathen—pray for their conversion and give to send them the gospel.

Therefore let us at once co-operate with the

destitute churches, and station a missionary in their midst who shall labor under the supervision of the Executive committee.

Respectfully submitted,
A. J. WISE, Jr. Chairman.

APPENDIX B.

We your committee on Documents beg leave to make the following report.

We find nothing to claim the attention of the body, except a request of the Woodland Grove Church to entertain the next session of your body—and we recommend that you grant her request.

Respectfully submitted,
T. D. KENDRICK, Chairman.

APPENDIX C.

Your Executive committee makes the following report. We have held no meetings—consequently we have not done anything.

J. M. ROWE, Chairman.

APPENDIX D.

Your committee on Nominations appoint Brother Jesse M. Rowe to preach the Introductory sermon at the next session, with J. W. Bullard his alternate.

W. J. SPURLIN, Chairman.

APPENDIX E.

Your committee on Finance offer the following as our report.

Collected for minutes - - - -	$12.60
Collected on Sabbath - - - -	4.30
Collected on Pledges - - - -	9.00
Collected on Monday - - -	1.00
Total - - - - - -	26.90

All of which has been turned over to the Treasurer, and his receipt taken for the same.

Respectfully submitted,
A. J. BROOKS, Chairman.

APPENDIX F.

The Treasurer offers for his report the following.
Received of the Finance Committee - - $26.90

Respectfully submitted,
M. BRUNSON, Treasurer, pro. tem.

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

M. Brooks, - - - -	Victoria, Ala.
J. W. Bullard, - - -	Daleville, Ala.
John Bradley, - - - -	Victoria, Ala.
Jesse M. Rowe, - - - -	Elba, Ala.

VISITING MINISTERS.

E. M. Brooks, - - - - -	Brundidge, Ala.
W. J. McBryde, - - -	Spring Hill, Ala.
W. Allen, - - - - -	Bullock, Ala.

CONSTITUTION OF THE PEA RIVER ASSOCIATION.

ART. 1. This union of Churches shall be known and designated by the style and title of the PEA RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

ART 2. This Association shall be composed of representatives from the Churches in union. Each Church shall be entitled to three representatives, who shall be required to furnish satisfactory evidence of their appointment by the Churches before they take their seats.

ART, 3. The Delegates, when convened, shall organize themselves into a deliberative body by the appointment of a Moderator, and a Clerk. These officers shall be chosen by ballot at each Annual Meeting, and continue in office until new ones are chosen.

ART. 4. The Association shall not interfere with the rights of the Churches of which she is composed. She shall regard them as independent bodies in all measures of internal government, and shall only act as an advisory council, assuming no authority except what is expressly delegated to her by the Churches, or is evidently implied by the very nature of this compact. She, nevertheless, claims authority over her own members. The delegates of the Churches, in justice and propriety, must have power to withdraw from and disown all Churches which depart from the principles of this compact. by becoming hetrodox in faith, or disorderly in practice. She should, therefore, regard all the Churches united under the constitution with a vigilant eye for good. Her principle business shall be to promote the decorative glory of God by extending his kingdom of grace on

earth, through the medium of preaching the gospel, and other means in accordance with that gospel; to cultivate union and fellowship with all the Churches of Christ, and especially with those of the Association.

ART. 5. A newly constituted Church or Churches, dismissed from other Associations, of the same faith and order, may be admitted into this union, on the sending up their delegates to an Annual Meeting, with a petition, and by those delegates agreeing to the Abstract of Principle by this Association.

ART. 6. The Churches in this union shall transmit to every Annual Session of this Association, written communications, specifying the names of the delegates, number in fellowship, number baptized, received by letter, dismissed, excluded, restored, deceased since the last session, and all other information that the Church may deem of importance, which shall be read and minuted accordingly.

ART. 7. This Association shall have a fund supplied by the voluntary contributions of the Churches, all moneys thus contributed shall be transmitted from the Churches and paid over through the Committee on Finance to the Treasurer, who shall receive and manage the funds according to the ord r of the Association, and present annually, for insertion in the Minutes, a clear and full statement of all receipts and expenditures.

ART. 8. This Association shall furnish the Churches with the Minutes of every session.

ART. 9. This Association shall take cognizance no query sent up from the Churches unless they have endeavored to solve the same and failed; nor of any difficulties between Churches unless they have pursued the directions contained in the 18th chapter of Matthew, and have not been able to settle them, then the Association shall take such matters into consideration, and act upon them at their discretion.

ART. 10. It shall be the duty of the Clerk of this Association to keep a regular file of printed minutes of every session of this body, and deliver over the same to his successor in office.

ART. 11. This Association, when convened shall be governed by proper rules of Decorum, which she is authorized to frame and amend, according to her own views.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1st. We believe in one only true and living GOD—the FATHER, the SON, and the HOLY SPIRIT, and these three are one.

2d. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice.

3d. We believe in the doctrine of eternal and particular election.

4th, We believe in the doctrine of original sin.

5th. We believe in man's incapacity to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by nature, by any exertion of his own free will.

6th. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the IMPUTED righteousness of Jesus Christ.

7th. We believe that God's elect shall be called, regenerated and sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

8th. We believe that saints shall persevere in grace, and NEVER FINALLY FALL AWAY.

9th. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ; that true believers are the only subjects of these ordinances; and that immersion only is baptism.

10th. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and the general judgement.

11th. We believe that the punishment of the wicked will be everlasting, and that the joys of the righteous will be eternal.

12th. We believe that no minister has a right to administer the ordinances of the Gospel, except one who has been regularly called and ordained to the work by the imposition of the hands of a presbytery.

RULES OF DECORUM.

RULE 1. The Moderator shall fill the chair and preserve order in the Association, which shall be opened and closed by prayer.

RULE. 2. The privileges and authority of the Moderator shall be respected by all the members; he shall decide all questions of order and propriety.

RULE 3. The Moderator shall vote in no case, unless there is a tie in the Association, then he shall give the casting vote. He shall have the same privilege of speaking as other members, provided. he shall appoint some member to fill the chair.

RULE 4. But one member shall speak at a time, who shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator, and keep the subject; and he shall not speak more than twice on the same subject without leave from the chair.

RULE 5. No member shall leave the body while on business, except by permission from the chair.

RULE 6. When a question is taken up, after allowing time for deliberation, the Moderator shall take the voice of the body by calling for the yeas and nays.

RULE 7. All motions in order must be disposed of by the body, unless withdrawn by him that made it.

RULE 8. A list of the names of the delegates shall be called and absentees marked.

RULE 9 The Clerk shall enroll the names of the delegates, and keep a regular record of all the business of the Association

RULE 10. The minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected before the body rise.

RULE 11. This Decorum may be altered, or amended, by two-thirds of this body.

TABULAR STATEMENT.

CHURCHES.	Rec'd by Exp.	Rec'd by Lett'r	Restored.	Dis'd by Lett'r	Excluded.	Dead	Total.	Contributions.	Ord' Ministers	Licentiates.	Absent Delegates.
Bethlehem, (Dale)	7	1	0	7	3	0	36	85	1	1	J M. Tally,
Shiloh,	0	0	1	2	0	0	26	2,00	1	0	J. W. Bullard,
New Ebenezer,	3	2	0	0	1	0	21	3 00	0	0	Z. Blackman,
Bethlehem, (Coffee)	0	2	0	2	0	0	49	2,00	0	0	A, Windham,
New Providence,	0	0	0	1	0	0	20	1,75	0	0	A. Moore,
Hebron.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	

CHURCH DIRECTORY.

CHURCHES.	Pastors.	P. O.	Clerks.	P. O.	Time of Meeting.
Bethlehem, (Dale)	J. W. Bullard,	Daleville,	J. M. Tally,	Daleville,	3rd Sabbath,
Shiloh,	M, Brooks,	Victoria,	A. J. Wise, Jr.	Elba,	2nd Sabbath,
New Ebenezer,	W. C. T. Mosley,	Greenville,	J. A. Taylor,	Elba,	4th Sabbath,
Bethlehem, (Coffee)	D. C. Allen,	Brundidge	J. F. Kendrick,	Victoria,	1st Sabbath.
New Providence,	.....	.....	A. Windham,	Elba,	3rd Sabbath,
Hebron.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....